

3. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said dispersive element is a length of a single mode fiber.

4. (amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said length is at least about 40km.

5. (amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said length is at least about 60km.

6. (amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said length is at least about 80km.

8. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the signal is generated by a laser equipped with a reflective element, and wherein the signal is frequency modulated by applying a current across the reflective element.

Please add new claim 31.

31. A method for generating a pulse train, comprising the steps of:  
 providing a frequency modulated signal; and  
 impinging the frequency modulated signal on a chirped fiber optic Bragg grating having a large group velocity dispersion to convert said frequency modulated signal to said pulse train.

Enclosed herewith is a version of the amended claims with markings to show changes made relative to the earlier version of claims.